

## NEW RECORDS OF BUTTERFLIES FROM THE EAST KIMBERLEY, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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### Abstract

Three butterfly species, previously known from the Northern Territory and eastern Australian States, are recorded in Western Australia for the first time. The presence of the grass jewel, *Freyeria trochylus putli* (Kollar), in Western Australia is confirmed.

### Introduction

There are few published accounts of butterflies collected in the Kimberley region of Western Australia. Warham (1957) listed 17 species from the west Kimberley and Koch (1957) recorded a further 9 species from the Kimberley that were in the insect collection of the Western Australian Department of Agriculture (WADA). Koch and van Ingen (1969) recorded a further 15 species from Koolan Island off the Kimberley coast. This note concerns 4 species not recorded from the Kimberley by Common and Waterhouse (1981).



Fig. 1. Locality of study area in northern Western Australia.

Three of the butterflies listed below were collected at Kalumburu Mission, in the eastern Kimberley region, between May 4 and 6, 1989. The Mission is situated 280 km NW of Kununurra in northern Western Australia (Fig. 1). In addition, specimens of the common swift (*Pelopidas agna dingo* Evans), collected at Kununurra 20-30 years ago, were found in the WADA. Voucher specimens have been deposited in the WADA.

### Hesperiidae

*Ocybadistes walkeri olivia* Waterhouse (yellow banded dart)

Common and Waterhouse (1981) recorded this subspecies as far west as Daly River in the Northern Territory. Four females were collected at Kalumburu Mission, extending its known range 450 km westwards.

*Pelopidas agna dingo* Evans (common swift)

There are three males in the WADA: 2 collected from Kimberley Research Station (KRS, 22 km N of Kununurra, now the Frank Wise Institute of Tropical Agricultural Research) and one from Kununurra. One of the KRS specimens was reared from rice by K.T. Richards and the other bears a 1967 identification label by I.F.B. Common. This species is known from the Darwin region (Common and Waterhouse 1981). These specimens extend the known distribution south-west by 400 km.

**Lycaenidae***Liphya brassolis major* Rothschild (moth butterfly)

One female was collected in a mature citrus grove at Kalumburu Mission. The trees had many green tree ant (*Oecophylla smaragdina* (L.)) nests and the individual may have emerged in the area. Common and Waterhouse (1981) record the moth butterfly from the Darwin region and this capture represents a range extension of 500 km. The specimen has extensive orange markings on the upperside forewing, and, in this respect, is more similar to Queensland specimens than those from the Northern Territory. Three female Australian beaks (*Libythea geoffroy genia* Waterhouse) were also collected in the same grove.

*Freyeria trochylus putli* (Kollar) (the grass jewel)

This species was collected by Warham (1957) near Derby and it was collected from Kalumburu Mission during this study. Warham's record, extending the range of the grass jewel from the Daly River region of the Northern Territory, was omitted by Common and Waterhouse (1981). More intensive collecting in the Kimberley will no doubt reveal additional range extensions of butterfly species that occur in the Northern Territory.

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